

Amend B / #11  
J 5/14/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

SERIAL NO: 09/646,579

ART UNIT: 1645

FILING DATE: 12/27/2000

EXAMINER: Fields, I.

INVENTOR: Ebringer

TITLE: **Diagnosis of Spongiform or De-Myelinating Disease**



**BOX: FEE**

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

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**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION, 37 CFR §1.111**

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated November 7, 2001, the time period for response thereto being set to expire May 7, 2002, by virtue of the Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time filed herewith, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the following amendment and accompanying remarks.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

At page 3, please delete the paragraph at lines 3-11, and insert in its place the following paragraph:

B1

-- In carrying out the present invention, the test is for antibodies which bind to an epitope present in or derived from the *Acinetobacter* species. The antigen used in the test may be the whole organism or at least one prepared peptide sequence corresponding to an *Acinetobacter* epitope. Alternatively, peptide sequences may be used which have minor variations in amino-acid sequence from the above-mentioned epitopes or prepared peptides but are conformationally sufficiently similar to them that they also bind to the relevant antibodies. For example, peptides having the sequence RFSAWGAE (SEQ. ID. NO: 1) or ISRFAWGEV (SEQ. ID. NO: 2) may be used. --